GRAON): (a) and (b) Government of Gujarat have reported that no order regarding lifting on ban on coupe cutting in the State has been issued by them so far.

Communal disturbances in the country

1145. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that communal disturbances in various parts of the country are on the increase;

(b) what are the details of the communal disturbances that took place during the last six months from January to June, 1989;

(c) what are the main causes of these disturbances; and

(d) whether various suggestions and recommendations made by the previous Commissions in this regard have been considered and implemented to contain such disturbances in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There were serious incidents of communal violence in Dhule (March, 1989) in Maharashtra, Tonk, Bigod and Makrana (March and May, 1989) In Rajasthan and at Hazaribagh (April, 1989) in Bihar.

(c) Communal disturbances are generally the handi-work of anti-social and communal elements.

(d) Based on the recommendations of the National Integration Council and those of various Commissions of Inquiry, detailed and comprehensive guidelines were issued to all the State Governments of Union Territories in July 1985. Lessions have also been drawn from the recent riots e.g. Meerut riots of 1987 and a fresh set of guidelines was circulated to the State Governments/Union Territories in 1988. The communal situation was further reviewed and discussed in the meeting of the Chief Secretaries held at New Delhi in June, 1989 wherein it was emphasized that the comprehensive guidelines for preventing and controlling communal violence as also for promoting communal harmony should be scrupulously followed by all the concerned authorities so as to install confidence in the minority communities. The need for tonning up of intelligence machinery was also stressed to thwart the evil designs of the communal and anti-social elements.

Action to control the prices of natural rubber

1146. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern India Rubber Manufacturer's Federation has urged Government to control the rubber prices which are shooting up every day;

(b) whether Government have since taken any steps to control the prices of natural rubber; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) The manufacturers and their associations including Northern India Rubber Manufacturers Association, have represented about the rise in the prices of rubber and requested for reduction of import duty on rubber to zero level.

The Government is taking all possible steps to contain the rising trend of prices by resorting to adequate imports and timing their releases. Exemptions orders for reducing im-